

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

23 JUNE 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Communist China

a. For the second day running, 50X1 we have failed to detect the deployment of any new combat units, ground or air, into the Taiwan Strait area. We now have

[redacted] reason to believe that an overall commander may have moved into the area. We also note a general increase in merchant marine activity in east and north China coastal waters since mid-June.

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b. In assessing the situation, our Taipei Embassy doubts that a large-scale Communist offensive is imminent

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[redacted] Should the Communists ultimately launch an attack, the embassy believes that Quemoy would be the primary target.

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c. Communist propaganda broadcasts during the past two weeks seem to be aimed primarily at discouraging Nationalist operations against the mainland rather than at whipping up fervor for offensive action. In any event, we remain doubtful that the Communists would have gone to so much trouble to march their troops up the hill if they had intended only to march them back down again.

2. Laos

a. Boun Oum submitted his resignation this morning thus clearing the way for the installation of the new government later in the day. Souphanouvong was due to arrive in Vientiane in time to participate in the ceremonies.

b. Souvanna departs for France tomorrow, probably not to return until after the Geneva Conference is buttoned up. During the interim, we anticipate an uneasy peace in Laos, but look for the Pathet Lao to consolidate the areas it controls. We note, in this connection, that Pathet Lao forces are continuing their systematic campaign to squeeze Souvanna's forces out of northwestern Laos. 50X1

3. USSR - North Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh unexpectedly turned up in the USSR yesterday. Of all the reasons that might be advanced for this sudden trip, we believe that the most likely one is a mutual desire to coordinate policy on South Vietnam and Laos. Furthermore, we would not be surprised if Ho's visit resulted in a call for the international conference on South Vietnam that both Hanoi and Peiping hanker for. 50X1
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4. India

The storm that was brewing as a result of Krishna Menon's determination to block Finance Minister Desai's bid to become the Congress Party's deputy leader in Parliament failed to break when Harekrushna Mahatab, a relatively obscure political figure, was selected for the job on Thursday without a contest. This turn of events was undoubtedly due to behind-the-scenes pulling by Nehru who is anxious to avoid any public manifestation of a struggle over the succession. As matters now stand, Desai is the nominal number two man in the government (he presides over the cabinet in Nehru's absence), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Menon is working hard to develop a politico-military power base from which he presumably hopes some day to propel himself into the prime ministership.

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5. Congo

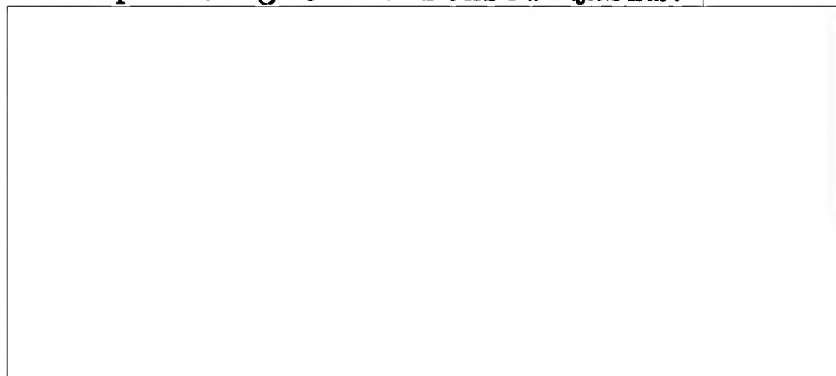
Tshombé and Adoula have returned to the conference table, but it is questionable whether much progress will be achieved before Tshombé departs for Elisabethville, probably on Monday.

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6. Iraq

[redacted] 50X1
[redacted] various anti-regime elements 50X1
are plotting to overthrow Qasim. [redacted] 50X1



7. Peru

[redacted] 50X1
[redacted] sus- 50X1
pect [redacted] precautionary move 50X1
to head off any violent reactions which
might develop when it is announced that
Belaunde has won the election.

NOTES

A.



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- B. The Viet Cong has warned Europeans in South Vietnam to carry identity cards in order to distinguish themselves from Americans. Although it is premature to draw a firm conclusion, such a warning, taken with the recent flurry of grenade bombings in Saigon, would seem to imply that US personnel are to be a special target of Communist harassment.
- C. Egyptian Foreign Minister Fawzi, with Cuba in mind, went out of his way earlier this week to assure Ambassador Badeau that the upcoming Cairo conference of neutral nations would eschew polemics and stick strictly to its economic knitting.
- D. The Finns are again attempting to persuade us that they must provide their forces with modern defensive arms, including guided missiles, in order to maintain their independence and fend off future Soviet pressure for military "consultations" under the 1948 treaty.
- E. In Turkey, Inonu has resumed his efforts to form a new government, and the prospects for his doing so sometime in the next few days now appear to be fairly good.
- F. The Thais, their blood pressure still running high over the International Court of Justice ruling in favor of Cambodia on the Preah Vihear temple case, say their decision to boycott both SEATO and the Geneva conference on Laos still stands.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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I.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE